

Council on Postsecondary Education
July 22, 2002

Executive Summary

1. Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?

The staff recommends that the council extend the deadline for the GED fee waiver program to June 30, 2003. (For details, see page 47.)

Adult education continues to play its part in preparing more Kentuckians for postsecondary education. The numbers of adult learners taking and passing the GED tests are setting Kentucky records. To maintain this trend, the council has been committed to removing barriers for adult learners. Earlier this year, the council allocated \$350,000 to cover the cost of the GED so that students could take the tests for free. This fee waiver expired June 30, 2002. More than \$200,000 is still available. The staff recommends that the council approve a time extension for the GED fee waiver program to June 30, 2003.

The staff recommends that the council approve a new administrative regulation entitled *13 KAR 2:025 College Preparatory Education and Advanced Placement Credit* to comply with the passage of Senate Bill 74 (2002 Kentucky General Assembly) and directs the staff to file the administrative regulation with the Legislative Research Commission and make such changes in the administrative regulation as shall be necessary as a result of the statutory review process. (For details, see page 49.)

One way for high school students to get a head start on college is Advanced Placement. The 2002 Kentucky General Assembly passed legislation directing the council to standardize the college credit given for scores on Advanced Placement exams. It requires public postsecondary institutions to grant credit toward graduation to a student who scores at least a "3" on the College Board Advanced Placement examination. The council also is directed to publish, in print and electronic form, the AP scores required for credit in specific academic programs at Kentucky public and independent institutions. The council staff will work with the independent institutions to make their AP requirements available on the council Web site and will encourage them to make the information readily available to all students.

The Kentucky Early Mathematics Testing Program, administered by Northern Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky, completed its second year. High school sophomores and juniors are encouraged to take this test, which assesses their preparation for college-level mathematics. Of approximately 90,000 Kentucky high school sophomores and juniors, 8,173 from 72 high schools and 42 counties were tested this academic year. This compares with 3,010 students from 29 high schools and 18 counties last year. The KEMTP Web site's link to the Kentucky Virtual University provides on-line tutoring in mathematics for Kentucky high school students. Advising pages offer direct access to mathematics placement policies at Kentucky colleges and universities.

At its June meeting, the P-16 Council endorsed the recommendation of the council and Kentucky Board of Education chairs to facilitate Kentucky's implementation of the American Diploma Project. ADP brings P-12 and postsecondary educators and business, labor, and political leaders together to align high school graduation requirements with college admission standards and employer requirements. Colleges and employers are committed to then using the high school diploma in more meaningful ways in making admission, placement, and employment decisions. The policy changes that will be required for Kentucky's implementation of the ADP will involve member agencies of the P-16 Council. These changes will help Kentucky develop a coherent, statewide education policy linked to economic development.

Over the past year, the council funded six local P-16 councils. Proposals were reviewed by council staff in collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Education and the Education Professional Standards Board.

The P-16 Council elected Peggy Bertelsman as chair for the coming year.

The Governor's second annual literacy summit took place June 21 in Louisville. This event was sponsored by the Kentucky Institute for Family Literacy, under the auspices of The Literacy Partnership. The conference highlighted successful programs in local communities throughout the Commonwealth that raise literacy levels.

The \$21 million GEAR UP Kentucky program continues to expand programs that prepare Kentucky's economically disadvantaged students for college. In May 2002, the statewide GEAR

UP Kentucky steering committee convened its first meeting. Dr. Carol Gabbard, outgoing chair of the P-16 Council, was appointed chair. The committee includes leaders from the education, business, non-profit, and government sectors who are committed to increasing visibility and support for GEAR UP Kentucky and to providing guidance in developing the program. At its first meeting, the committee approved a strategic plan and a new organizational structure for the program. They will meet again in October to create partnerships between GEAR UP and public and private organizations throughout the state and to develop long-term strategies to sustain GEAR UP programs beyond the life of the grant. Dr. Joseph McCormick, executive director of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, is a member of the steering committee. Already, KHEAA has contributed \$100,000 in support of GEAR UP programs.

In June 2002, with the National Foundation for the Teaching of Entrepreneurship, GEAR UP Kentucky cosponsored a business plan competition for future entrepreneurs. Held in Bowling Green, Kentucky, the competition is part of a special program involving the development of business plans that help students learn to apply math, economics, technology, and writing skills to real-world business activities. Each GEAR UP school participating in the entrepreneurship program selected two students for the statewide competition. Stephanie Lane from Bowling Green Junior High School won this year's competition and a \$1,000 savings bond for college. Phoebe Gras from Estill County Middle School and Andrea Richardson from Bowling Green Junior High School were finalists and received a \$500 savings bond. Participants in the state competition are eligible to compete at the national level.

The Kentucky Virtual Library is set to launch a special site for children (www.kyvl.org/html/kids). Created by librarians, teachers, and children from around the state, the site is designed to teach young Kentuckians how to research and evaluate data on the Web.

Since it went live in October 2002, 1,340 adult education students and instructors have used the curricular software on www.kyvae.org, the site created and maintained by the KYVU for the Department of Adult Education and Literacy.

The KYVU and the KCTCS signed an agreement in June with the Higher Education Policy Commission in West Virginia to create a virtual learning alliance. Up to 400 West Virginia community college students will be able to enroll in on-line KCTCS courses, and the two states will work to create joint programs.